

this House functions as efficaciously as it does.

I am going to remember who was standing with the gavel at hand. I am going to remember the faces. This is a special moment in time. I will remember those who were to speak after me.

I will remember this wonderful lady who is seated over to my left, who has always been so kind and so generous and gentle.

I will remember the person who has prevented someone else from talking on the phone and who doesn't allow it to happen in this House when there is business before this House. She is even-handed; she treats all of us the same.

I will remember the Parliamentarian, who has allowed his COVID beard to continue. That is just a joke, friends. I want to bring a bit of levity. But the Parliamentarian has been very helpful, and all of those who are associated with the office, have been very helpful.

I pray that on the August 20 or before, this resolution will receive a vote in this House so that this House can go on record, as it has gone on record for many other things, as supporting Slavery Remembrance Day.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor now to yield back the balance of my time.

RECOGNIZING THE RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

(Mrs. McCLAIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Richmond High School softball team, the Division 3 State champions.

As you know, softball, especially girls softball, has been very near and dear to my heart.

The Richmond girls persevered through a hard-fought championship game against Buchanan, including being down 1 to 0 going into the sixth inning.

After losing two of their first three games, the Richmond girls showed that they would not give up on their team and ended their season on a 22-game win streak.

With everything that these students have had to fight through this year, softball has been their rock. They continued to fight to prove that no matter what adversity was in front of them, they would overcome it.

We are all so proud of you. Congratulations Richmond girls softball team.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Unionville-Sebewaing High School's softball team, the back-to-back Division 4 State champs.

The girls of Unionville-Sebewaing, also known as U-S-A, proved to the entire State of Michigan that they remain at the top of Division 4 with their 14-1 victory over Rudyard.

Congratulations.

□ 1230

HIGHLIGHTING IMPORTANCE OF GOVERNANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 30 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, thank you for your courtesies. And I begin with a clarion call. The Speaker wears many hats, and we have been in meetings where we have focused our legislative prowess, legislative questions, on voting rights. So, I think it is appropriate to begin today to say that a crisis is pending.

I am stunned by this decision. I am aghast. I will not use the word "enraged" because action requires a calm and contemplative mind.

Today, the Supreme Court upheld voting restrictions. They might have written it and said they upheld voting laws. They upheld voting restrictions in Arizona and signaled that challenges in new State laws making it harder to vote—my God, I am going to say that on this floor—making it harder to vote in spite of the constitutional privilege that is ensconced in the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments that generates into the States the dignity of humanity, that citizens' birthright is the right to be precise in your desires of your representation.

And then, it signaled in this article that challenges to new State laws making it harder to vote would have a hostile reception from a majority of the Justices.

The vote was just as we expected. All the Court-packing—all the Court-packing—has borne fruit.

Forgive me. I wanted to be on this floor speaking eloquently, if you will, about a myriad of things, but a 6-3 vote, not even a light of difference: three who were not appointed by Republican Presidents, and then, of course, the packing by the former President of the United States.

By the way, I just want to make a public statement. I know the First Amendment has its privileges. I ask the media to call the former President "the former President." He is not the President of the United States. He is not "President" and his name. He is the former President. He is not "President" and his name at the border. He is the former President at the border, creating havoc.

And havoc was created with this 6-3 vote. The decision was the Court's first consideration of how a crucial part of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 applies to voting restrictions that have a disproportionate impact on members of minority groups.

It was issued as disputes over voting rights have taken center stage. We are still suffering from the Shelby case of 2013 that indicated that the Section 5 provision is unconstitutional and has left us with no tools to deal with this.

As Republican-controlled State legislatures increasingly seek to impose re-

strictions, new voting rules, we are in the fight of our life.

I am on the floor of the House today to indicate that there is no divide in any of us, thanking the Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman BEATTY on the urgency of voting rights, and the Judiciary Committee and the chairman of that committee, the subcommittee chairmen of that committee, and all the Members and staff, we needed this decision to be able to craft the record that is going to withstand and fight the battle and be able to pass what the Supreme Court cannot undermine with its decision.

In fact, we must thwart its decision. We must protect the vulnerable. We must not allow the disabled to be videotaped in Texas. We must not allow the hungry and thirsty to be denied water and food in Georgia. We must not allow judges to overturn willy-nilly the elections in Texas.

We must not allow, if I might, the idea of a former officer of the United States—in fact, the Chief Officer of the United States. We must not allow that person to make a mockery of the order of government.

There is but one President of the United States. That is President Joe Biden. There is but one Vice President, Vice President KAMALA HARRIS. And they are effectively leading this government and this Nation. They are caring people.

President Biden is, as we speak, either there or en route to the enormous tragedy in Surfside, Florida, to provide comfort but also to provide the strength of the Federal Government in any investigation that will proceed.

That is the able work of the Florida delegation and this President. They will do their job, particularly those Members who represent that area, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and many other Members.

But it is challenging to be thwarted in voting and to ignore the Constitution, the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments.

So, today, I want to proceed with what I think is a necessary agenda that is so important to this Nation. I will talk about so many different aspects of the issue of governance, why voting is so important, and why we need to close the social and racial divide, or racial and social equity should be intertwined.

Let me emphasize, if you will, the enormous difference that what we are going to be working on over the next couple of weeks is going to make in lives, and that is, of course, the child tax credit.

Votes and winning the majority in 2020 of the House and Senate by Democrats, and, of course, the new President and Vice President, led us to the expanded and improved child tax credit.

It is a historical change that is a lifeline to the middle class and cuts child poverty. It provides children and their families with additional payments through the year that help them with